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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition, comprising:  
a particle chain having at least two connected particles and a link that connects the  
at least two connected particles, wherein:  
the at least two connected particles and the link are integrally formed of  
PVA;  
~~the at least two connected particles include a first particle comprising a~~  
~~first polymer and a second particle comprising a second polymer;~~  
at least one of the at least two connected particles has an interior region  
with pores having a first mean size, ~~and~~ a surface region with pores having a second mean size,  
and a body region between the interior region and the surface region, the body region with pores  
having a third mean size, the third mean size being greater than the second mean size,  
the first mean size is about 20 microns or more ~~of the pores of the interior~~  
~~region of the at least one of the at least two connected particles is greater than the mean size of~~  
~~the pores of the surface region of the at least one of the at least two connected particles;~~  
the second mean size is about one micron or less;  
the third mean size is about 18 microns or less; and  
~~the particle chain includes at least one of the following:~~  
(a) ~~the link having~~ has an aspect ratio of at most about 1,000 and the  
link ~~having~~ has an aspect ratio of at least about 0.001; ~~and~~  
(b) ~~a ratio of the diameter of one of the at least two particles to a width~~  
~~of the link is at least about 0.5 and the ratio of the diameter of one of the at least two particles~~  
~~to a width of the link is at most about 100;~~